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| **Ladybug Life Cycle  By Cindy Grigg** |  | http://www.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/edhelp1.gif |

1     Ladybugs are animals. Don't be surprised. You didn't think they were plants, did you? Some ladybugs are red with black spots. They have black heads. They have six black legs. They are insects called beetles. In fact, some people call them lady beetles. They are called ladybirds, too.  
   
2     Some ladybugs don't have any spots. They are red with black heads and legs. Did you know that ladybugs can be other colors? Some may be orange. Some may be yellow. Some may be pink. Some may be white. Some may be brown or black. They may have spots, but they may not.  
   
3     They live in fields and forests. They eat tiny bugs called aphids. Farmers like ladybugs. Ladybugs eat aphids that can kill the farmer's plants.  
   
4     Ladybugs can fly. They have wings. When they are not flying, they keep their wings folded. Hard wing cases cover the flying wings. The wing cases are the part of the ladybug that is colored red or other bright colors.  
   
5     When a ladybug wants to fly, it lifts its wing cases. The flying wings spread out from under the wing cases. The ladybug flies away.  
   
6     You may know a rhyme about ladybugs. Here is one rhyme. Some of the words may not be the same as the ones you know.  
   
7       
      Ladybug, ladybug, fly away home.  
      Your house is on fire, and your children are

alone.  
      All except one,   
      And her name is Ann,   
      And she hid under the frying pan.   
  
   
8     Ladybugs lay eggs on a leaf. When the eggs hatch, they are not called ladybugs. They are called larvae. They don't look like ladybugs. They eat and grow. They molt. This means they shed their skin. The old skin gets too tight. It splits open. A new, bigger skin is under the old one. After four or five molts, they get ready to change again.  
   
9     The larvae stop eating. They fix their bodies to a leaf with a sticky glue. Their skins split open again. Each larva has turned into a pupa. It has a hard case. The pupa sticks to the leaf. It does not eat. Inside its hard case, it is changing into an adult ladybug. After about a week, the ladybug comes out. It is soft and pale. Its wings are damp. It rests on the leaf until its body dries and hardens. The wings dry out. The colors of the wing cases begin to show. Spots start to show, too. Soon it flies away.  
   
10     The ladybug eats aphids all summer. It drinks nectar from flowers. When winter comes, the ladybug must find shelter. It sleeps all winter. When spring comes, it wakes. It flies away to look for food. It finds a mate. The female ladybug will lay her eggs. The cycle of life will start again. **Eggs** will hatch. The **larva** will eat. The larva turns into a **pupa**. The pupa turns into an **adult ladybug**.

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**Ladybug Life Cycle**

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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | 1. | Which of these could **not** be a color of a ladybug? http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubblea.jpg  Yellow http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubbleb.jpg  Pink http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubblec.jpg  Green | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | 2. | How many parts are there in a ladybug's life cycle? http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubblea.jpg  One http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubbleb.jpg  Four http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubblec.jpg  Three http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubbled.jpg  Two | |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | 3. | Each ladybug starts out as \_\_\_\_\_\_. http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubblea.jpg  A pupa http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubbleb.jpg  A larva http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubblec.jpg  An egg | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | 4. | A \_\_\_\_\_\_ hatches out of the egg. http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubblea.jpg  Ladybug http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubbleb.jpg  Larva http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubblec.jpg  Pupa | |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | 5. | Farmers do not want ladybugs on their plants. http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubblea.jpg  False http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubbleb.jpg  True | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | 6. | Which of these is **not** a name for a ladybug? http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubblea.jpg  Lady butterfly http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubbleb.jpg  Ladybird http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubblec.jpg  Lady beetle | |

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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | 7. | When larvae shed their old skin it is called \_\_\_\_\_\_. http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/wordline.gif  http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/wordline.gif | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | 8. | Hard wing cases cover the \_\_\_\_\_\_. http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubblea.jpg  Flying wings http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubbleb.jpg  Legs http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubblec.jpg  Fake wings | |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | 9. | List the four parts of a ladybug's life cycle here. http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/wordline.gif | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | 10. | Name another cycle that happens in nature. http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/wordline.gif  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | |

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| Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |  | http://www.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/edhelp1.gif | Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |

**Ladybug Life Cycle**

**Draw a picture of each part of a ladybug's life cycle. Write the name of each part.**   
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| **Ladybug Life Cycle - Answer Key** |

**1**  http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubblec.jpg  Green  
**2**  http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubbleb.jpg  Four  
**3**  http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubblec.jpg  An egg  
**4**  http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubbleb.jpg  Larva  
**5**  http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubblea.jpg  False  
**6**  http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubblea.jpg  Lady butterfly  
**7**  molting  
**8**  http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubblea.jpg  Flying wings  
**9**  Egg, larva, pupa, adult ladybug  
**10**  Various; possible answers are caterpillars turn into butterflies, seasons, day/night, phases of the moon, tadpoles change into frogs, or any reasonable answer.